

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, October 3, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO HON. WILLIAM GOODLING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to make some very complimentary remarks about the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING). He is certainly the type of individual, if I had been in his class or in his school, I would have known exactly where he stood. He defends the system of education. He supported education, and he supported the ideals of education: local control and strong discipline.

BILL GOODLING is one of the finest experts in education in the entire Nation. No individual has had more of an impact on educational systems in this Nation than BILL GOODLING. He sometimes gets in trouble because he says what he thinks. He believes very strongly about local control of education, and there are people who believe differently, and they disagree strongly with his opinion. But on the other hand, we know where he stands. I think in politics that is the thing that is absolutely imperative to our system, that somebody that knows what they are talking about, has had experience in the field, can work hard at those kinds of things.

Education obviously is one of the most important issues we take up in the House. Normally, I do not talk very long on issues of defense because we work things out. And I see the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, here; and he and I do not take a lot of

time on the floor. But it is hard not to speak for a long period of time for the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

He has been in the forefront of many, many battles; and he has won most of those battles. Even when he was in the minority, he worked hard for local control of schools, for adequate funding of schools to make sure that the Members of Congress understood the system from a classroom, from a superintendent, from a principal's standpoint, and from a Member of Congress' standpoint.

So we are going to miss BILL GOODLING. BILL GOODLING has had a phenomenal impact on our system itself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to be here as we pay tribute to our retiring colleague, BILL GOODLING. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) did a great job in elaborating on how BILL GOODLING has been a leader in education fights in this House as chairman for the past 6 years, and serving on that committee for 20-plus years.

But I want to say that BILL GOODLING has done much more than that. He cares so deeply about all of his constituents. I have the privilege of being the only Pennsylvanian on the Committee on Agriculture. Agriculture is the number one industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and BILL GOODLING's district is rich with an agricultural history. I drive by it every week on my drive to Washington. BILL GOODLING has been a strong fighter for his agriculture constituents, whether it be for fairer dairy prices for his dairy farmers or whether it be the ability for all of our farmers to have access to crop insurance, because we have such diverse agriculture in Pennsylvania, or recently because of his fight against plum pox virus. So many of his fruit growers were affected by that disease and he fought long and hard to see that his fruit growers were protected.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to come forth and pay tribute to our retiring Member who has done such an outstanding job, Mr. GOODLING.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I do not mean to say that he was only interested in education, because the park that was in his district was absolutely essential to the district and he handled that, with a lot of divisions, he handled that so well.

And the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) knows that and I now yield to him.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman GOODLING helped me in my first baby steps in the world of government and politics. In fact, Congressman GOODLING introduced President Eisenhower, then retired President, General Eisenhower, to me at a rally in Harrisburg. So I have always been grateful to Congressman GOODLING.

Mr. Speaker, I am talking about George Goodling. Now, George Goodling was a role model for our incumbent. Our incumbent took the best qualities of his own father and transferred them to Washington as he represented his constituents, as everyone in the world knows by now.

But one thing that is less known, except by the veterans on this floor like the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), that he loved his dad. And he did, in a wonderful way, emulate some of the qualities of George Goodling.

I remember, for instance, that the first time I met the "Baby GOODLING," the one we are honoring today, was at one of the first picnics to which he went as a candidate. There everyone knew that they were going to vote for BILL GOODLING, not just because of his eminent qualifications as an educator but because of the educator, George Goodling, the Congressman who preceded BILL GOODLING.

We love BILL GOODLING.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, again reclaiming my time, I am pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am probably one of the youngest Members that got to know the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) 4 years ago when I first came on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. He and I would always be the first ones down there. If the meeting was at 9:30, he and I were there at 9:30.

This went on for a couple of committee hearings, and I finally said to Mr. GOODLING, "Mr. GOODLING, how come you and I are the only ones here, when you say that the committee hearings are going to be at 9:30?" He said, "Carolyn, around here we have congressional time and real time, and everyone comes late." And I said, "Why should you and I be punished on that?" Ever since then, at 9:30 that meeting starts and I appreciate that.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.